

Library

**HEBDEN ROYD**  
**Urban District Council**

---

*Annual*  
**REPORT**

*of the*

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**(J. LYONS,**  
**M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)**

*and the*

**SANITARY INSPECTOR**  
**(T. W. TINDALL**  
**A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.)**

**for the Year**

**1954**

---

Hebden Bridge:  
Kershaw and Ashworth Ltd., Market Street.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29419049>

HEBDEN ROYD  
Urban District Council

---

*Annual*  
**REPORT**

*of the*

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
(J. LYONS,  
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

*and the*

SANITARY INSPECTOR  
& CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT  
(T. W. TINDALL  
A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.)

for the Year  
**1954**

---

Hebden Bridge:  
Kershaw and Ashworth Ltd., Market Street.

# **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

## **HEBDEN ROYD U.D.C.**

### **Medical Officer of Health—**

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

### **Deputy Medical Officer of Health—**

NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

### **Sanitary Inspector—**

T. W. TINDALL, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

## **WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **Preventive Medical Services : Health Division 19.**

Staff with duties in the Hebden Royd District:—

**Divisional Medical Officer—**As above (M.O.H.)

### **Senior Assistant County Medical Officer—**

\*NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

### **Assistant County Medical Officer—**

\*ALICE SEELIG, M.D.

### **Medical Officers to Hebden Royd Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics—**

MADELEINE A. DOWDALL, M.B., Ch.B., at  
Hebden Bridge;

T. M. CRAWFORD, M.B., Ch.B., at Mytholmroyd.

### **School Dental Officer—**

Vacant.

### **Health Visitors—**

D. M. DACK, S.R.N., S.C.M. (resigned 30-6-54).

R. I. M. SCHOLICK, S.R.N., S.C.M.

\*M. LITTLE, S.R.N., S.C.M.

### **Tuberculosis Health Visitor—**

\*B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.



**Mental Health Social Worker—**

\*E. C. WROE, S.R.N., R.M.N., S.C.M., H.V.

**Mental Health Home Teacher (Qualified)—**

\*M. H. GRAHAM, B.A.

**Midwives—**

\*M. COGAN, S.R.N., C.M.B.

\*D. SANDERSON, S.R.N., C.M.B.

**Home Nurses—**

\*I. COLLUMBELL, S.R.N., C.M.B.

\*A. M. SCHOLICK, S.R.N., S.C.M.

\* Also have duties in other parts of the Division.

**HALIFAX AREA HOSPITALS MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE**

**Consultant Staff—**

Chest Physician:

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon:

W. O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.)

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

P. M. WOOD, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Orthopædic Surgeon:

G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Year ending December 31st, 1954

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,  
Todmorden.

September, 1955.

To the Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the eighth Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration.

Under the Divisional Health scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Borough of Todmorden, the Urban Districts of Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden, and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to a closer integration of local authority health services.

The vital statistics for the year follow the pattern characteristic of the Calder Valley. Deaths exceeded births by 16, the birth rate being at the low figure of 12.1 per 1,000 population. There were 4 deaths of infants under the age of one year (as compared with 6 in the previous year), but maternal deaths were again absent, and it is interesting to note that we can now record a run of over 2,000 births to mothers resident in the Hebden Royd District without a single maternal death. This must be regarded as evidence of the high standard of efficiency of the local maternity services.

Approximately 50 per cent. of all deaths in the District were attributed to the so-called "degenerative" disease of heart and blood vessels. These chiefly affected the older age groups, but a considerable number of relatively young and middle aged persons also become victims, especially to coronary disease. Conditions of this kind used to be regarded as the inevitable concomitants of increasing age, but recent statistical and laboratory research is leading medical opinion to the view that these diseases may be in some degree preventable. Dietary and occupational factors appear to play some part. Obesity has for many years been regarded by Insurance Companies as an enemy of longevity, and this view is supported by experimental work on animals. Over-eating by middle aged adults, especially of fatty foods, may yet prove to be a decisive factor in the determination not only of our longevity but of our span of useful and active existence. Lack of exercise, at least in so far as it predisposes to obesity, may be a contributory factor. In the past the work of Medical Officers of Health has been focussed on malnutrition and its associated diseases. Can it be that the pendulum has now swung over to the point at which we have to consider the complications of prosperity as well as those of poverty?

The infectious disease statistics for 1954 show an unusually high incidence of dysentery. This is chiefly due to an outbreak of sonne dysentery in Cragg Vale. This first came to the notice of the Health Department towards the end of March, 1954, when 15 cases of diarrhoea were reported from the Cragg Vale County Primary School. The onset of symptoms in the 15 school children was almost simultaneous, highly suggestive of a food-borne outbreak. Bacteriological examination of faeces confirmed in all cases that the sonne dysentery organism was responsible, but efforts to isolate the same organism from school meals, milk and water supplies were unsuccessful, nor were any of the adults handling the food at school found to be carriers. The disease spread to other children in the school, and to other members of the family at home. The number of children on roll at the school at the time of the outbreak was 84, of whom 25 were in due course confirmed as suffering from sonne dysentery. In 13 of the 25 cases clinical and bacteriological evidence of the disease was later found in one or more of the parents and other home contacts. The total number of adults infected was 14, and the total number of cases ascertained in the Cragg Vale



area as 60, equally divided between the sexes. Infants under the age of 12 months numbered three only.

The disease in general took a fairly mild course, and there were no deaths. The cases in the Cragg Vale area did, however, appear to be rather more severe than those occurring in the more compact urban communities—an impression which was supported by one of the local general practitioners. This may be due to the fact that the Cragg Vale community is relatively isolated and had not to our knowledge been previously troubled with this disease.

The control of the Cragg Vale outbreak was carried out on orthodox lines. All ascertained cases (or suspected cases) were visited by the Sanitary Inspector, whether or not a statutory notification had been received, and inquiries were made into the possible sources and spread of the disease. Wherever possible, specimens of fæces were obtained from other members of the household, including adults, special attention being devoted to those engaged in food handling. As a result of informal action, one publican, two dairymen and one butcher were persuaded to take special precautions. The dairymen were requested to send their milk for pasteurisation, and they co-operated readily. All contacts were advised of the way in which dysentery spreads, and were told of the importance of ensuring that their hands were scrupulously scrubbed and washed after visiting the toilet and before touching food. The fact that there was no major spread of the disease from Cragg Vale to surrounding districts speaks well for the good sense and co-operation of the Cragg Vale community.

The spread of diseases of this kind can only be checked by a higher standard of personal hygiene. The practice of thoroughly washing the hands after every visit to the toilet would, if universally adopted, take us a long way towards the complete elimination of dysentery and allied infections (including the more common types of food poisoning) and even, to some extent, of poliomyelitis. The importance of the training of young children in the elementary rules of cleanliness by parents and teachers is underlined. The use of communal towels is probably a factor in the spread of infection, and representation was made to the Education Authority for their replacement in schools by individual towels. At the same time an appeal was also made to the public through the press for the use of individual towels in the home. Furthermore, pending action by the Education



Authority, parents were asked to provide their children with individual towels to be used at school. The vast majority of parents co-operated, but it was noticeable that those few children who were in the greatest need of individual towels were often without them, and it is clear that this approach to the problem is not the complete answer.

The housing situation in Hebden Royd has steadily though very slowly improved during the past few years as a result of new building. Many of the older houses are, however, showing serious signs of deterioration, and it is estimated that approximately 500 dwellings will have to be formally condemned as unfit for habitation. The speed at which this programme of slum clearance can be followed must in the long run depend on the degree to which the resources of the District Council, of prospective tenants and of the public in general can match the extraordinarily high costs of post-war building.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness, patience and co-operation and to thank Mr. Tindall, Sanitary Inspector, for his kindness and most willing assistance in helping me to tackle the numerous problems of the Health Department.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

# SECTION I

## Vital Statistics

### Statistics—

Area: 7,084 acres (Hebden Bridge Ward 476 acres,  
Mytholmroyd Ward 6,608 acres).

Population: Registrar-General's estimate of Resident

Population, mid-1954 10,010

1951 Census 10,233

Number of dwelling houses: 3,967.

Rateable Value: £67,610.

Product of a penny rate: £272 13s. 6d.

### Summary of Vital Statistics—

	Total	M	F	
Live Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	114* 7*	64 6	50 1	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident Population: <b>12.1</b>
Still Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	4 —	2 —	2 —	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: <b>32.0</b>
All Deaths	137	60	77	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: <b>13.7</b>
Deaths of infants under 1 year Legitimate Illegitimate	4 —	2 —	1 —	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births): <b>33.1</b>

\* These figures include births outside the Urban District to mothers usually resident in Hebden Royd.

# CAUSES OF DEATH IN HEBDEN ROYD DISTRICT

		1954	
CAUSE OF DEATH		M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other .....	—	1
3.	Syphilitic disease .....	—	1
4.	Diphtheria .....	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough .....	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections .....	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—
8.	Measles .....	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	1	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	2	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	—	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	—	—
16.	Diabetes .....	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	3	15
18.	Coronary disease, angina .....	7	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease .....	—	1
20.	Other heart diseases .....	13	13
21.	Other circulatory diseases .....	5	2
22.	Influenza .....	—	—
23.	Pneumonia .....	1	—
24.	Bronchitis .....	6	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system .....	1	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis .....	—	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate .....	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations .....	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	5	8
33.	Motor vehicle accidents .....	1	—
34.	All other accidents .....	2	2
35.	Suicide .....	1	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war .....	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		60	77



# Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1954:

Based on Registrar General's Figures

	Hebden Royd U.D.	Hepton R.D.	Todm'den M.B.	Sowerby Br'ge U.D.	Ripponden U.D.	Aggregate W. Riding U.D.	W. Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (Provisional Figures)
BIRTH RATE:— (per 1,000 estimated population)	12.1	13.3	12.3	14.2	11.7	14.7	15.1	15.2
DEATH RATES:— (All per 1,000 estimated home population).	13.7	14.3	13.1	13.7	15.8	12.7	11.9	11.3
All Causes.								
Infective and parasitic diseases *	0.10	—	—	0.11	—	0.07	0.08	* *
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	0.25	0.16	0.16	0.58	0.18	0.16	0.16
Other forms of tuberculosis	0.10	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.02	0.02
Cancer	2.60	2.71	2.47	2.59	3.85	2.12	2.01	2.04
(excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)								
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1.20	1.97	1.34	1.03	0.77	1.27	1.22	* *
Heart and circulatory diseases†	1.80	2.96	1.72	2.00	2.12	2.03	1.84	* *
Respiratory Diseases:—†	5.09	4.43	4.46	5.68	5.96	4.88	4.54	* *
INFANT MORTALITY:— (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	33.1	55.6	35.1	19.0	49.2	28.3	28.0	25.5
MATERNAL MORTALITY:— (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births)	—	—	—	—	—	0.80	0.89	0.69

\* Combined death rate from syphilitic diseases, diphtheria, whooping cough, meningococcal infections, acute poliomyelitis, measles, and other infective and parasitic diseases. (items 3—9 incl. on p.8)

† Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system.

† (items 18—21 incl. on page 8)

† Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system. ( items 22—25 incl. on page 8 )

## **SECTION II**

### **General Provision of Health Services**

#### **A. Hospitals**

There is no hospital in Hebden Royd. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred, as a rule, to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Northowram Hall Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Shelf Sanatorium, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital for mentally defective patients.

Maternity beds are available at both the Halifax General and Royal Infirmary. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g., Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospital Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

#### **B. Ambulance Service**

The County Council took over the control of the ambulance service towards the end of 1947. The area served by the Todmorden Ambulance Depot now includes Hebden Bridge but not Mytholmroyd which is covered by the Halifax Corporation Ambulance Service under an agency agreement. This is not regarded as an ideal arrangement.

#### **C. Laboratory Facilities**

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford.

## **D. Issue of Anti-Toxin, etc.**

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and the Halifax General Hospital for issue to medical practitioners requiring them. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board, supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Divisional Health Office, The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners in the division. A supply of reagents for diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation.

## **SECTION III**

### **W.R.C.C. Preventive Health Services**

#### **A. Clinics and Treatment Centres**

**PITT STREET CLINIC, HEBDEN BRIDGE.** — The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held here every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon with Dr. M. A. Dowdall in attendance together with the Health Visitors, and an Ante Natal Clinic similarly staffed is held every Friday afternoon. The School Clinic is held every Wednesday morning and is attended by Dr. Seelig. Sunlight clinics are held every Tuesday and Friday morning.

**SCOUT ROAD METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL.** — Dr. T. M. Crawford attends the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic at Mytholmroyd on alternate Wednesday afternoons.

#### **B. Care of Mothers and Young Children**

##### **HEBDEN ROYD ANTE NATAL CLINIC**

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	89*
Total number of attendances .....	448*

##### **HEBDEN ROYD CHILD WELFARE CLINICS**

Number of consultations by doctor during the year	1,425*
Total number of attendances .....	3,921*

##### **HOME VISITING OF INFANTS**

Total number of live births to Hebden Royd mothers	121
Number of first visits to children under 1 year .....	115
Total number of visits to children under 1 year .....	1,235
Total number of visits to children aged 1—5 years ...	2,021

\* These figures include mothers and children who reside in the Hepton Rural District but attend the clinics in Hebden Royd.



Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.—A variety of brands of dried milk and other infant foods are sold at the Child Welfare Centres for the convenience of mothers.

National Dried Milk, cod liver oil, orange juice, etc., are also distributed at the Centres under revised arrangements instituted in July, 1954, when the County Council became responsible for this service.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

PROVISION OF MATERNITY OUTFITS

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

DAY NURSERY ACCOMMODATION

There is a Day Nursery situated in the centre of Hebden Bridge to which children under 5 years can be admitted under certain conditions.

C. Professional Nursing in the Home

Midwifery Service

The West Riding County Council employ two full-time midwives in the Hebden Royd area. One nurse is responsible for the work in the Hebden Bridge and Hepton districts; the other nurse's area covers the Mytholmroyd, Luddenden Foot and Midgley districts, etc.

Number of confinements at home .....	51
Number of confinements in hospital .....	74

Analgesia

The midwives are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and provided with the necessary equipment.

Home Nursing Service

There are two full-time Home Nurses working in the Hebden Royd Urban District. Their areas are similar to those worked by the two midwives.

D. Health Visiting

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting

for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children and persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

**E. Home Helps**

The recruitment of suitable women to be Home Helps again proved to be difficult. During 1954 63 cases were attended by Home Helps and the total number of hours worked was 10,478 as compared with 9,086 hours the previous year.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provide domestic help for households "where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age."

Of the 63 cases attended in 1954, Home Helps were provided for the following reasons: 46 aged and chronic sick, 14 maternity, and 3 illness.

**F. Care and After Care**

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease and other illnesses.

**G. School Health Service**

Number of schools in the district .....	8
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1954 .....	1,970
Number of children examined at school during 1954 .....	733
this figure being made up as follows:—	
Routine examinations .....	467
Re-examinations .....	266
Number of above children referred for treatment .....	28

**H. Immunisation and Vaccination**

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough and vaccination against smallpox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

**Number of Children in Hebden Royd who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation 1954**

Age	0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Began and completed injections 1954	14	55	7	5	1	14	11	3	2	-	2	-	1	-	-
Total 115															

Immunised in previous years re-treated 1954	-	-	-	-	6	44	33	21	10	23	38	23	3	-	-
Total 201															

**Immunisation in relation to child population**

**Number of Children in Hebden Royd who had completed a Full course of Diphtheria Immunisation at any time to 31-12-54**

Age at 31-12-54 i.e. born in year	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under15
	14	69	105	78	136	636	676	1714

Estimated Mid-year population (under 15 years) ... 1881



## WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

### Immunisation in relation to child population

**Number of children in Hebden Royd who completed a full course of whooping cough immunisation, 1954**

Age at final injection	Under 6 mths	6 mths to 1 year	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	Total
No. immunised	—	29	8	3	3	43

During the year there were 31 notified cases of whooping cough. None of the children concerned had completed the full course of immunisation.

**Number of children who had completed a course of whooping cough immunisation at any time before 31-12-54**

Age 31:12:54 i.e., born in year	Under 1 1954	1 1953	2 1952	3 1951	4 1950	5 1949	6 1948	Total
No. immunised	5	28	22	8	10	9	—	82

### Vaccination Against Smallpox

During the year 60 persons were vaccinated against smallpox. Of this number, 31 were infants under the age of one year.

## SECTION IV

### Infectious Diseases

#### Summary of Notifications received in year 1954

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever .....	—
Whooping cough .....	31
Acute poliomyelitis .....	1
Measles .....	6
Diphtheria .....	—
Acute pneumonia .....	1
Dysentery .....	59
Smallpox .....	—
Acute encephalitis .....	—
Enteric or typhoid fever .....	—
Paratyphoid fevers .....	—
Erysipelas .....	1
Meningococcal infection .....	—
Food poisoning .....	—
Puerperal pyrexia .....	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum .....	—
Pulmonary tuberculosis .....	5
Other forms of tuberculosis .....	2
	107

### Tuberculosis

The number of new cases notified during 1954 are given in detail in the following table:—

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 .....	1	—	—	—
5—14 .....	—	—	—	1
15—24 .....	—	1	—	—
25—44 .....	2	1	—	—
45—64 .....	—	—	1	—
65 and over .....	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	2	1	1

HEBDEN ROYD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Year ending December 31st, 1954

Sanitary Inspector's Office,  
Council Offices,  
Mytholmroyd.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Hebden Royd  
Urban District Council**

Cleansing Superintendent.

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1954, being my fifth as your Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

During the year there were three aspects of the work which deserve special mention, and which caused a great deal of additional work, with, consequently, some reduction in the time it was possible to devote to other public health matters. I refer to an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery in Mytholmroyd and Cragg Vale during the spring, a survey of the district for the purpose of ascertaining the extent of the slum problem, and the re-opening of the slaughterhouse in October.

It seems probable that outbreaks of Sonne Dystentery will recur from time to time, the slum clearance survey will not be completed before August, 1955, at the earliest, and the slaughterhouse will, no doubt, remain as a permanent addition to the work—to the extent of at least one full day per week. In addition, it must be remembered that the slum clearance survey is but the beginning and that the putting into effect of the Council's slum clearance programme will entail an enormous amount of work. All this means that, without adequate staff, some other important duties, e.g., food hygiene, atmospheric pollution, etc., must inevitably suffer.



New legislation which came into force during the year consisted of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954. The slaughterhouses Act lays the duty upon local authorities of securing that adequate slaughtering facilities are available locally, and is a natural outcome of the decontrol of meat supplies, whilst the Slaughter of Animals Act amends the law with regard to licensing of premises and slaughtermen and provides for the making of regulations by the Minister of Food for securing humane conditions and practices in slaughterhouses. One welcome improvement is that stunning is now compulsory for all animals throughout the country.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act is both an amending and consolidating Act and also contains some new provisions. One of these is the increase of rent permitted under certain conditions and known as the "repairs increase." As a safeguard, a tenant may apply to his local authority for a certificate of disrepair where his landlord has given notice of an increase of rent. It is interesting to note that, so far, no such applications have been received.

To conclude this preamble on a cheerful note, I would refer to salvage. The hopes I expressed in my last report of an improvement in the position have been justified, as is shown in the table at the end of this report. If prices and demand maintain their present levels, I am confident that next year's salvage return will be even better.

My sincere thanks are tendered to Dr. J. Lyons, the Medical Officer of Health, for his unfailing and invaluable help and advice at all times so freely given. I would also thank the other chief officials of the Council who have assisted in the compilation of this report. And finally, I would like to record my appreciation of the keen interest in the work of the Department shown by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

I remain, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. W. TINDALL, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector and  
Cleansing Superintendent

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Number of houses in the district .....	3,956
Number of houses erected during 1954:	
(a) By local authority .....	4
(b) By private builders .....	9
Number of houses demolished during 1954 .....	4
Number otherwise ceased to be used as dwellinghouses	9

### Water Supply

Water is obtained in bulk from the Halifax Corporation and distributed by the Council, and there are, in addition, a number of private supplies.

Number of dwellinghouses on public supply .....	3,164
Number of dwellinghouses not on public supply .....	792

No extensions to mains have been carried out during the year.

### Sewerage and Drainage

No improvements and no extensions to existing sewers have been carried out during the year.

There still remain some 420 houses not connected to a public sewer, most of them being situated in outlying areas where no sewer is available.

### Closet Accommodation

Number of privies with covered middens .....	3
Number of pail closets .....	277
Waste water closets .....	13
Water closets .....	4,004
Number of pail closets converted to water closets ...	4
Number of additional water closets installed during 1954:	
(a) for old property .....	8
(b) for new houses .....	13
Total number of closets in the district .....	4,297
Percentage of closets on the water carriage system	93.18%

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Summary of inspections made during the year:—

Dwellinghouses (under the Public Health and Housing Acts) .....	933
Drainage .....	83

Places of entertainment (sanitary conveniences) .....	4
Atmospheric Pollution:	
Smoke observations .....	21
Recording instruments .....	300
	<hr/> 321
Offensive trades .....	4
Water supplies .....	5
Infectious diseases .....	316
Common lodging houses .....	3
Moveable dwellings .....	4
Food—	
Food inspection .....	84
Catering establishments .....	11
Food shops .....	30
Bakehouses .....	13
Butchers' shops .....	13
Fried fish shops .....	14
Ice cream premises .....	16
Preserved foods .....	16
Milk and dairies .....	9
Food hawkers' vehicles and premises .....	5
Food manufacturers .....	7
Markets .....	10
School canteens .....	2
	<hr/> 230
Factories—	
Mechanical .....	14
Non-mechanical .....	5
Outworkers. premises .....	7
Means of escape in case of fire .....	12
	<hr/> 38
Shops Act .....	7
Hairdressers and Barbers .....	9
Rodent control .....	78
Alleged filthy or verminous premises .....	9
Interviews with owners and contractors on site .....	97
Refuse collection and disposal .....	186
Salvage .....	21
Samples taken—	
Water:	Bacterio-logical. Chemical.
Public supplies .....	1 —
Private supplies .....	16 3
Plumbo-Solvency .....	0 6
	<hr/>



<b>Milk:</b>		
Designated .....	3	
Un-designated .....	5	
Biological .....	5	
	<hr/>	13
Ice cream .....		12

## NUISANCES AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

107 complaints were received and investigated during the year, the principal causes of complaint being housing defects and rodent infestation.

	Informal.	Statutory
Number of notices outstanding 31st December, 1953 .....	54	7
Number of notices served during 1954 ...	104	7
Number of notices complied with in 1954	124	13
Number outstanding 31st December, 1954	34	1

The number of notices served is an increase of approximately 30 per cent. over the previous year, and the number of notices complied with shows an increase of 77 per cent. over 1953. This indicates that, whilst there has been an increased number of inspections necessary, a great deal of work has been successfully accomplished, chiefly by informal action. It was not necessary to take legal proceedings in any case during the year.

## SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

Defective dustbins replaced .....	160
Leaking roofs repaired .....	8
Eaves gutters repaired, renewed or provided .....	6
Rain water pipes repaired .....	8
Defective floor repaired .....	1
Walls and ceilings replastered .....	13
Defective fire ranges repaired .....	2
Dampness of walls remedied .....	16
Defective sanitary pails renewed .....	6
Doors and windows repaired .....	2
Adequate water supplies provided .....	2
Offensive accumulations removed .....	2
Leaking skylights repaired .....	2
Waste pipes repaired .....	11
Defective soil pipes repaired .....	2
Water supply provided to sanitary fittings .....	1
Obstructed surface water gully and drain cleared ...	1
Defective drains repaired .....	13
Defective drains re-laid .....	2

Defective water closets repaired .....	6
Defective pail closet repaired .....	1
Missing chimney pot renewed .....	1
Broken manhole cover renewed .....	1
Dangerous retaining wall made safe .....	1
Defective chimney flue repaired .....	1
Courts, yards, etc., re-paved .....	1
Drains connected to septic tanks .....	2
Privy conversions .....	4
Additional water closets installed .....	8
Additional lavatory basins installed .....	5
Additional baths installed .....	4

## HOUSING

### Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) .....	410
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	418
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1. above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations .....	374
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	374
3. Number of dwelling houses needing further action:—	
(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	93
(b) Number (excluding those in sub-head 3 (a) above), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	230

### Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .....	39
---	----

### Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936:—	
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	Nil

2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners .....	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners .....	Nil
<b>B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—</b>	
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	4
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:	
(a) by owners .....	12
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	Nil
<b>C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—</b>	
1. Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling houses unfit for habitation .....	3
2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	Nil
3. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	Nil
<b>D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—</b>	
1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	Nil
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms, the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	Nil
<b>E. Proceedings under sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—</b>	
Closing Orders made .....	2

## HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV, OVERCROWDING

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	7
2. Number of families dwelling therein .....	9
3. Number of persons dwelling therein .....	35



(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	3
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	Nil
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil

In the latter half of the year, a survey of the whole area was commenced to determine the extent of the slum clearance problem and as a preparatory step to the formulation of a programme of slum clearance as required by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. Owing to the work entailed, the multifarious other duties which must be carried out, and the lack of qualified assistance, it is extremely unlikely that the programme will be prepared in the time specified, i.e., by August, 1955.

By the end of the year, some 374 houses had been surveyed, of which 93 were considered to be unfit for habitation, 27 suitable for reconditioning or conversion, 141 in need of minor repairs, and 113 in all respects fit.

Positive action on slum clearance was confined to individual houses, eight of which were represented as unfit during the year. Undertakings were accepted by the Council in respect of four of these houses that they would cease to be used for human habitation, two of them being still occupied at the end of the year. Closing Orders were made on a further two houses, one of which was represented in December, 1953, and both orders were operative at the end of the year. Consideration in respect of one house was deferred in view of its probable inclusion in a clearance area. An undertaking by the owner to render one house fit for human habitation was accepted and the work was satisfactorily completed.

## DRAINAGE

New branch drains and connections examined and tested .....	21
Drains tested for defects .....	15
Number of defective drains found .....	10
Defective drains repaired .....	13
Drains relaid .....	2
Obstructed drains found .....	8
Obstructed drains cleared .....	4
Drains traced to outfall .....	3
Total number of inspections made .....	83

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Observations at Redacre Sewage Works, Mytholmroyd:

	Rainfall (mms.)	Total Solid Deposit (tons per sq. mile)	Atmospheric Sulphur (mgms. per 1,000 sq. cm.)
January .....	No figures available		22.0
February .....	108	19.98	22.3
March .....	82	15.90	21.2
April .....	11	7.75	13.4
May .....	92	17.55	11.0
June .....	59	16.31	9.2
July .....	115	24.46	10.7
August .....	148	15.73	12.5
September .....	122	17.55	13.9
October .....	155	17.15	17.8
November .....	165	12.40	18.3
December .....	152	14.55	21.3

Observations of factory chimneys disclosed smoke nuisances on two occasions, both at the same premises. Notice was served and the principal of the firm concerned was interviewed. As a result of suggestions made, a considerable improvement in smoke emission from this factory was found on subsequent observations.

Excessive emission of brown smoke also occurred at another premises. As a result of representations to the occupier, no further nuisance from this factory chimney has been observed.

## WATER SUPPLIES

Of the sixteen samples obtained from private supplies, three were found, on bacteriological examination, to show evidence of gross contamination. These three samples were from two supplies. In one case improvements have been carried out and subsequent samples were satisfactory; in the other case, the supply has been discontinued and an alternative supply from the Council's main obtained. A sample of water from the second supply above referred to was also found, on chemical analysis, to be unsatisfactory. The other two samples submitted to chemical analysis were satisfactory, as were all six samples taken for plumbosolvency.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

During the year, there was an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery, with a total of 69 cases. This necessitated a considerable amount of work, 290 visits being made and 149 faeces specimens were obtained for examination by the laboratory.

In addition, 52 library books were disinfected after infectious disease and disinfection of rooms, bedding, etc., was carried out at four premises after cases of Tuberculosis.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is only one common lodging house on the register, and the premises are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

## FOOD

### Food Inspection

The slaughterhouse at Fairfield, disused for a number of years, was licensed for use and opened by a local firm of wholesale meat traders. Slaughtering commenced on the 18th October.

The following tables show the numbers of animals slaughtered, inspected, and meat condemned:—

	Cattle Excluding			Sheep and	
	Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs	Pigs
Number slaughtered .....	75	38	13	323	281
Number inspected .....	75	38	13	323	281
<b>Whole carcasses condemned</b>					
Tuberculosis only .....	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases other than					
Tuberculosis	—	—	1	1	1
<b>Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:</b>					
Tuberculosis only .....	10	16	—	—	1
Diseases other than					
Tuberculosis	8	13	—	43	21
Percentage of carcasses inspected affected with					
Tuberculosis .....	13.3	42.1	—	—	1.06
Percentage affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis .....	10.6	34.2	7.7	13.3	7.1



## Weight of food condemned:

	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Meat and offals .....	8	2	0	8
Other food:				
Swedes .....	0	1	16	0
Carrots .....	0	1	3	0
Corned beef .....	0	0	2	8
Beef sausages .....	0	0	16	0
Bacon .....	0	0	2	0
Slab cake .....	0	0	8	0
Irish rabbits .....	0	0	18	0
Food in containers:				
Milk .....	3			
Meat and meat products	22			
Fruit and Vegetables.....	14			
Fish and fish products ...	2			
Cheese .....	3			
	1	3	8	6
	11	1	25	6

## Preparation, storage and sale of food

Type of Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Defects Found	Number of Defects Remedied
Catering				
Establishments	35	11	1	1
Food Shops	75	30	3	15
Bakehouses	17	13	3	4
Fried Fish Shops	11	14	3	1
Butchers' Shops	15	13	—	3
Preserved Food	11	16	—	2
Markets	1	10	3	1
Food Hawkers	3	4	—	2
Food Factories	2	7	1	1
Slaughterhouses	1	72	—	—
School canteens	5	2	—	—

## Ice Cream

	No. on register at 31st Dec., 1954	No. of inspections
Manufacturers .....	2	12
Retailers .....	25	10

Twelve samples were obtained and submitted to bacteriological examination, eleven of the samples being placed in grade I and one in grade II.

### Milk and Dairies

Number of distributors on register, 31 December, 4  
 Number of licences in force, 31 December, 1954

	Dealers	Supplementary
Tuberculin tested .....	1	—
Tuberculin tested (Pasteurised)	2	3
Sterilized .....	1	—
Pasteurised .....	1	—

Results of samples submitted to bacteriological examination were as follows:—

Grade	No. of samples	No. satisfactory	No. unsatisfactory
Tuberculin tested .....	2	2	—
Pasteurised .....	3	2	1
Ungraded .....	4	4	—

Seven samples were examined biologically for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. Six were negative and one positive, statutory action being taken in this case to secure pasteurisation of all milk from this source until the herd was declared free from infection.

### FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND SHOPS

#### Factories

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Prosecutions
		Inspections	Writt'n N'tic's	
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	5	—	—
(2) Factories (not included in (1) above) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	150	14	3	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	1	1	1	—
<i>TOTAL</i>	<b>156</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>

## Premises in which defects were found:

Defects	Number of Cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness .....	—	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding .....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature .....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .....	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors.....	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:—					
(a) Insufficient .....	—	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	2	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .....	1	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	—	5	—	1	—
Total .....	3	13	—	1	—

### Outworkers:

There were, on 31st December, 1954, some 72 outworkers employed by firms in the district, of whom 39 resided in this Authority's area. This is a reduction of 8 on the previous year. No instances were discovered of work being performed on unsuitable premises.

### Shops Act:

There were no contraventions found during the year.

## RAG FLOCK ACT

There are two premises registered under the Act and no premises licensed.

## HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

On the 31st December, 1954, there were twelve hairdressers' or barbers' shops on the register, all of which were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

## RODENT CONTROL

Annual test-baiting of the sewers was carried out in August, a total of 36 manholes being baited, of which five showed "takes." Treatment of the affected sections of sewer was carried out in January.



	Found to be infested		Treated by Health Department	Number of notices served	
	Rats	Mice		Section 4	Rat Proofing
Dwellinghouses .....	6	3	9	—	4
Business Premises.....	4	1	3	2	4
Agricultural Property .....	1	—	1	—	—
Local Authority.....	1	2	3	—	—
Property (excluding houses)					
Total	12	6	16	2	8

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The total quantities of refuse collected and tipped during the year were as follows:—

Domestic refuse .....	1875 loads
Night soil .....	201 loads
Trade refuse .....	129 loads, 6217 bins

The following figures are calculated from information supplied by the Council's Financial Officer, and are for the financial year ended 31st March, 1954.

	£	s.	d.
Refuse collection gross cost .....	5639	13	9
Refuse disposal gross cost .....	395	0	11½
	6034	14	8½
Income:	£	s.	d.
Trade refuse charges .....	96	19	0
Tipping charges .....	96	8	2
Salvage .....	304	11	9
Miscellaneous .....	21	15	9
	519	14	8
Total nett cost	5515	0	0½
Nett cost per load ..	47/11½d.		

The cleansing staff consists of one foreman and eleven men. There have been very few changes during the year and the present staff carry out their work satisfactorily, often under very trying conditions. A weekly collection is

made of refuse and night soil and this is maintained, notwithstanding shortage of staff through sickness, and under all but the most extreme of weather conditions. Altogether 2020 man-hours were lost through sickness during the year, and a further 318 man-hours through absenteeism.

It is pleasing to be able to record a reduction in the nett cost of the service, due mainly to an increase in income from salvage.

## SALVAGE

Year ended 31st December, 1954.

Material	Weight			Income		
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper: mixed	80	15	1	530	8	7
board	14	19	1	112	4	4
Newsprint	8	14	1	78	6	0
Ferrous metal	1	2	2	4	10	0
Non-ferrous metal		16	2	57	15	0
Light Scrap	7	15	0	13	10	0
Textiles	1	3	3	23	15	0
Total	115	6	2	820	8	11

The above figures show a very welcome increase over the previous year, both in tonnage and value. Tonnage rose by more than 100% and income by 200%. During the year a gradual recovery from the slump of the previous year occurred and it is hoped that this will continue.





